FROM SPARK TO SPACE

HAMATEUR CHATTER

One of The World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Club - Since 1917

August, 1999 Vol. 07 No. 08

club officers

President---------- 529-5583
Dave DeFebo ----- WB9BWP

1st V. Pres. -------- 475-6404
Matt Planning ----- KB9PRC

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Secretary 1 (414) 968-2724
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Ken Eggert ---------- W9MOT

Board of Directors

Barbara Brewer - KB9TIV
(99-01)---------- 771-0640

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(99-01 ---------- 344-4694

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(99-01)---------- 302-1343

Rich McNew -- WB9PTC
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Gerald Melotik — KC9EV
(98-00)---------- 358-0107

Tom Fuszard ----- KF9PU
(98-00)----------

From the President's Desk

Dave DeFebo - WB9BWP

Dave DeFebo

With the delivery of this month's Chat ter you should also receive a copy of the 1999 MRAC roster.. It may not be in as fancy a format as some past rosters, but it is easily being distributed, is cheaper, and the plan is to come out with a new one every year. If your information is wrong, we asked plenty of times, maybe next year. Thanks to Brian White KB9LCQ for his work on the roster (and membership database).

After years of false starts, MRAC now has logo cum patch design that's ready for interested members to purchase. Be sure to see the order form in this issue. Want something other than a patch? How about a personalized coffee mug? Stay tuned, in an effort to raise money for the club a special coffee mug offer is coming. Remember a few years ago when we did a similar thing after the initial repeater purchase? This will be similar. For a minimum donation (amount to be determined) you will receive a premium coffee mug (not just a cheesy plastic cup) with the new MRAC logo and YOUR name and callsign.

The logo is part of our trying to update our image. We are not the only ones. ARRL has recently decided they will no longer refer to themselves as the American Radio Relay League. From now on they will be "ARRL - The National Association For Amateur Radio". There will be further discussions of a legal name change at the January, 2000 board meeting.

continued on page 2

Milwaukee Area Nets

DAY	TIME	MHZ	ACTIVITY
Daily	6-8 AM	14.290	Wisconsin/Florida Net (SSB)
Daily	6:30 PM	3.645	Wis. Slow Speed CW Traffic Net
MON-FRI	8:30 AM	3.965	After Breakfast Club (SSB)
MON	8:00 PM	146.445	Emergency Net
MON	9:00 PM	146.670 -	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
MON	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Net
TUE	9:00 AM	50.160	6 Mtr. 2nd shifter's Net
TUE	8:00 PM	144.250	Badger Contesters (SSB)
TUE	8:00 PM	7.035	A.F.A.R. Net (CW)
WED	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
THU	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Interest Net
THU	9:00 PM	146.910 -	Computer Net
FRI	8:45 PM	28.490	W9RH 10 meter MRAC Station Net (SSB)
FRI	9:15 PM	147.045 +	W9RH 2 mtr. net following the 10 mtr. net
SAT	9:00 PM	146.910 -	Saturday Nite Fun net
SUN	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr. 55) (SSB)
SUN	10:00 AM	443.800 +	FM-38 Link to 146.88 Baraboo SWAP Net
SUN	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
SUN	8:00 PM	146.910 -	Information Net
SUN	9:00 PM	146.910 -	Swap Net

The 2 meter frequencies are -600 khz offset FM repeaters. FM38 is +5 Mhz offset, tone 114.8. The 10 meter frequencies are upper sideband (USB). If there are additions, changes, or corrections to this list, please contact: Pancho - KA9OFA at **344-4694** or call **797-MRAC.** Our old number doesn't work any more.

Presidents Desk continued from page 1

We are selling patches and will have mugs to sell. Why are we selling stuff? Why do we need money? Why should any club have money? Do you enjoy reading this newsletter (at least the rest of it besides my column)? The costs associated with the newsletter production (including printing and postage) eat up about half of a regular member's dues (and the other half pays for life members who do not contribute). Other things also cost money. The club has a telephone line with an answering machine and a post office box to name two.

Over the last year MRAC has spent a lot of money. Some significant expenses included new repeater hardware and Bart Jahnke's travel expenses. That's OK, we planned for that. What we did not plan for was the extra costs associated with last years Christmas party, a membership requested donation to ARRL, and the costs of relocating the club phone line. Just those 3 items represent over $1200 of unplanned expenses. Add in the lost revenue of not testing for a couple of months (which helps pay for the phone and PO box among other expenses) after Ed's passing and we find ourselves a bit down in the bank.

MRAC used to have 3 CDs in the bank. We now have 2. The treasury has about half as much money as it had 10 years ago. In those 10 years we have done a lot of things. We bought a repeater. We bought a printer and a scanner for newsletter production. We bought fax machines for club business. We bought a newer HF radio. We have subsidized Christmas parties. We participate in Field Day. We would like to continue to do things. Without beefing up the treasury some things may have to be postponed or forgotten. We do not currently view a dues increase as viable. So when we offer the coffee mugs as discussed above why not buy 1 (for maybe more than the minimum donation). Why not buy a few patches (yes we will make a few dollars on them). When you have refreshments at a club meeting don't throw 37 cents in the can how about a buck (besides where can you get a soda or a cup of coffee and a doughnut for less than a dollar), (by the way, why not throw in an extra buck and pay for the refreshments for a visitor to a meeting).

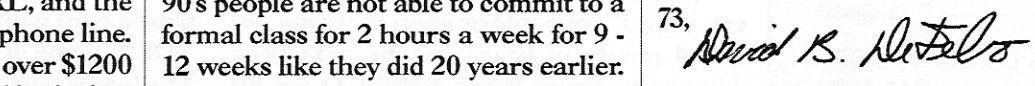
Enough of the begging. On to the new member/new ham discussion of the last few months. Between 1976 and 1996 MRAC conducted classes in all grades of ham license. I mean all grades, all the way through Extra. We even taught slow speed code. During the 20 years over 500 people attended 1 or more classes. Why did we stop? First is a location for classes. Someplace with tables and chairs and a blackboard. Someplace available on a regular basis. Someplace easy to get to. Someplace CHEAP. Then there was the problem of people attending a class. In 1976 the classes ran for 2 hours once a week for 12 weeks. In the mid eighties we cut that back to 9 weeks. In the 90's people are not able to commit to a formal class for 2 hours a week for 9 - 12 weeks like they did 20 years earlier. Besides learning is a life long proposition. How about trying to get across the info to pass a test in less than 18-24 hours. AES has been doing a 6 hour or so Technician class (using the ARRL video tapes). I actually thought of trying to do something similar. AES beat me to it For some people that 6 hours works. Some need more explanation and a more thorough introduction to amateur radio. We are thinking of trying to help with that. I do not have any details yet as they are being discussed right now (even as you read this). Do you have any thoughts? Do you wish to help out?

Notice I said learning is a life long proposition. That is where club meetings come in. Last year we tried to have a sort of "class" prior to the actual meeting. That was not a bad idea, but it made for a long evening for some of us, and some people were confused by "before the meeting" so the experiment stopped after 4 tries. Maybe some meetings should be coverage of some basic radio theory? Maybe more "how-to" topics regarding radio? What do you think? Is there a particular subject you would like to see discussed? Do you have a subject you would like to talk on?

We also need to show new hams there is more to life than 2M FM. Not that there is anything wrong with that. 2M FM is as much a part of amateur radio as is DX on 20M (and we need to show some "old" hams there is more to life than DX on 20M), maybe even more so, as there is more public service work on 2M FM than 20M CW). Just do not forget satellites, TV, various digital modes, etc. Amateur radio is a hobby of exploration. For many people it becomes a hobby of stagnation. If we all work together on this maybe we can keep the stagnation to a minimum. Anyway, Pancho is going on vacation this month, so I have to take it easy on him for this issue. More next month.

See you at the meeting.

73,



Dave - WB9BWP

Attention!

Next Testing Session for our VE's will be
Sat. - September 25, 1999
at AES
5710 W. Good Hope Rd.

MRAC Board Meeting 7/26/99

- Treasurers report -- $289.23 Liquid and $6000 in CD's. The CD's will come due in August and we will take the interest only. All bills are paid up at this time.
- Thanks to Tom KF9PU for the meeting place and goodies.
- The next meeting will be at Dave's QTH , September at Ken's and October at Matt's QTH.
- VEC report -- Tom says that the form 610 is no longer used. The new form is 605. No question pool changes will be made until the FCC is through with the license restructuring process.
- Special note: All new license applications will have to be accompanied by your social security number or a federal ID number. To get a Federal ID # you must obtain a form 606, called a TIN registration form and send it in for a number ALL PRIOR TO APPLYING FOR YOUR NEW TEST from a VE. Without this number or SS# you will not be able to ask any questions about your license to the FCC or take a test.
- John Kraak - KF9XL (our testing VEC) is looking for more volunteers. John says that a group of amateurs in Denver have requested to be VE's for us in their area. They say they are dissatisfied with the W5YI Group and the ARRL VE program. Since they are having trouble with the two national test groups, it made us wonder why. Since they are so far away and we have no way to check on them and monitor what they are doing, we decided to respectfully decline.
- The next MRAC test session will be September 25th at 9:30 to 12:00 at AES.
- Al - KB9NRS showed the board the final color selection for the club patch. The patch will come in two sizes -- hat and shoulder size and chest size. $5 for the large patch and $4 for the small one. We need as many advance orders and money as possible so we have enough initial money to order the patches. An order blank for the patches will be in the Chatter.
- The new club roster will be in the next Chatter.
- More on club business cards and QSL cards were discussed. Club name badges will be made on a computer printer.
- The meeting adjourned at 9:00. Thanks again Tom!!!

Respectfully submitted,

Jim WB9LNU

Jim - WB9LNU
Secretary

Jim - WB9LNU

MRAC Club Meeting 7/29/99

MRAC Club Meeting
On a very hot 7/29/99

- The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as written.
- Treasures report -- $289.23 in liquid assets and $6000 in CD's.
- The mic was passed for all to ID.
- Jerry - KC9EV says that Field Day was a success. Jim says the points were about equal to last year. Everyone who attended had a nice time. Saturday had a nice breeze. Sunday was very warm when everything was put away for next year.
- Tom - KF9PU gave the latest on VEC news. FCC form 610 is no longer being used, the new form is 605. From this day forward your Social Security number or a Federal ID number must be on all test forms and with any correspondence to the FCC. License renewals can be done through the FCC Web site or through our VEC if you are a member of the club. No new test questions until the restructuring process is done.
- The order blank for the new club patches will be in the Chatter. Order yours today. We need the money in advance to place the order with the patch company.
- The meeting adjourned.
- Our guest speaker was (*Gregg Wagner*) from the Wisconsin Electric Power Co. The subject was Y-2-K. The Electric Co. is ready as of June. They are confident that there will be no trouble with gas, electric or steam deliveries come January 1, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim WB9LNU

Jim - WB9LNU
Secretary

Thanks to our kitchen crew for the donuts and soda.

No raffle.

Short meeting due to the heat.

Hams to use new licensing procedure

Amateur radio will soon join the other wireless services in a new licensing system being deployed by the FCC.

Universal Licensing System (or ULS, as it is known), is a new way to manage data and coordinate the entire licensing process. (License restructuring is *not* a part of this program.)

ULS promises to streamline and simplify the application process, and provide applicants and the public with what the FCC calls "unprecedented access" to licensing information.

As part of this change, the FCC integrated 11 separate licensing databases and systems into one, and reduced the number of application forms from over 40 to just four.

Launched in December 1997, ULS is being deployed throughout the various services in phases this year. It is scheduled for deployment in the amateur radio service in mid August.

While most of the changes involve behind-the-scenes activity, some will be apparent to the average ham.

- The time-honored Form 610 will be replaced with a new document, Form 605. Similar in appearance to the current form, it sports a cleaner image and more user-friendly layout. It is also shorter: two pages, as opposed to four. (The two pages of instructions were eliminated.)
- VECs may use up their existing supply of Form 610, but must begin using Form 605 by Feb 6, 2000. 22 MRAC will use the new form starting with the test session of Sept. 25.
- Hams will be able to log into the ULS web site to renew their licenses and perform certain updates on their files. For further information, see "Logging into the ULS" below.
- ULS will generate and mail renewal notices 90 days prior to expiration of the licenses. Renewals will be accepted at that time.
- VEs are required to collect Taxpayer Identification Numbers (typically the social security number) from all unlicensed examinees.
- Those who refuse to provide their social security numbers will be instructed to contact the FCC to register their SSN. They will receive a Licensee ID number which will be recorded on Form 605 during their next visit to a test site. VEs are not allowed to test without a TIN.

We don't anticipate a problem with this, as applicants at MRAC test sessions generally provide their SSN on application forms.

All data on existing licensees will be transferred to ULS by the time the new system goes live. You will not need to register with the FCC if you have provided your SSN in the past.

To ensure a secure filing, VECs will encrypt their data files with PGP (Pretty Good Privacy) software prior to transmitting to the FCC.

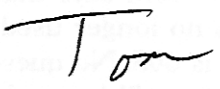
We also need new data entry software, and I am in contact with the Central Alabama VEC (which produced the software in use currently) for an updated version. That is expected to be available soon.

I would like to acknowledge the work that has gone into developing and beta testing the software VECs will need for this process. Several VECs, including W5YI, ARRL, and the Greater LA ARC, have been instrumental in testing the process and offering important suggestions for improvement.

A lot of credit is also due Win Guin (Chairman, National Conference of Volunteer Examiners), for being a strong voice on behalf of the VECs during this challenging transition.

I anticipate that MRAC will be prepared for the new process well before the September test session.

73,



Tom Fuszard
KF9PU

Logging into the ULS

In an attempt to make the Universal Licensing System accessible and user-friendly, the FCC has developed a web site for the program.

A wealth of information is available on the web at:
http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls

In particular, look up Newsletter 1 (Feb. 1999) by clicking the "Newsletter" button. This offers a comprehensive review of the ULS program, as well as an explanation of the forms used and some frequently asked questions.

You may also perform your own updates and renewals (when permitted) online. This will require registering your social security number. This is done by clicking on "TIN/Call sign Registration," and completing the form. Once registered, you will no longer have to visit a test site to perform a standard update; that is, one that does not require an exam.

Invitation to All

You are cordially invited to the September 29, 1999 meeting of the Menomonee Falls Radio Club.

The guest speaker will be Jeff Wagner from AM 620 who will speak on "being a talk show host".

He has had a successful law career, was a prosecuter at the U.S. Attorney's Office, was head of the Organized Crime Task Force and also was the 1994 Republican candidate for State Attorney General.

The meeting will take place at 7:30 p.m. at:

Bank One Bldg. at
Pilgrim Rd. and Mequon Rd.
Germantown, WI

Club Phone

Area Code Change

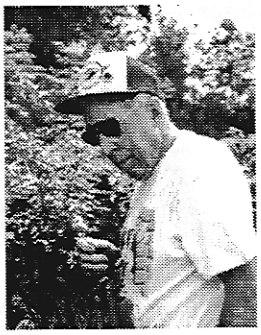
In mid- September, the **area code** for the club phone line **will change to 262**. I understand that there will be a break-in period, but what this will mean is, those calling 797-MRAC from outside the 262 area will need to dial 1-262-797-MRAC.

73

John (KF9XL)

John - KF9XL

Ken - KS4NX
Check'n out our CW station
at Field Day '99



Fred - W9NZF
Our Station Master
at Field Day '99

John - KF9XL
Antenna support
at Field Day '99

E events (upcoming)

* - Indicates VE testing

Woodstock '99
HamFest and Computer Extravaganza
SUN - Aug 29, 1999
Woodstock, IL
T/I on146.52 simp.

Peoria SuperFest '99
Sat & Sun - Sep 18 & 19, 1999
Exposition Gardens
Peoria, IL
T/I on146.76- & 147.075+

L'Anse Creuse Amateur Radio Club
27th Swap & Shop *
Sat. - Sep. 18,1999
L'Anse Creuse H.S.
Mt. Clemens, MI
T/I on 147.080+ rptr.

Radio Expo '99 *
Sep. 25 &26,1999
Lake cty Fairgrounds
Grayslake, IL
T/I 146.16/76 (107.2Hz PL)

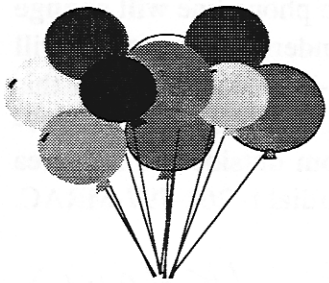
MRAC Septtmber Membership Meeting
Thu.-Sep. 30,1999
Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
(Use the south entrance)

CARC HamFest
Sun. - Oct, 10, 1999
Oak Brook Terrace, Ill

HamFest Minnesota & Computer Expo *
Sat. - Oct. 30, 1999
RiverCentre
St. Paul, MN

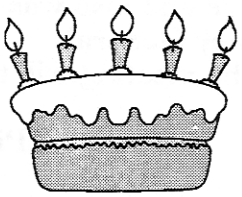
Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club HamFest *
Sun. - Nov. 7, 1999
Starlite Club
Kaukauna, WI
T/I on 146.52

Our People



September Birthdays

		Birthdate
Roger C. Zaun	W9UVV	Sep 7
William A. Joyce	KA9IWS	Sep 9
Joe T. Ruderer	N9USA	Sep 13
Jerome J Dolzeal	W9NSC	Sep 16
Joe C. Thompson Sr	W9GER	Sep 24
Terry Putchinski	KB9OPT	Sep 25
Robert Immekus	W9CYI	Sep 27
Chester M. Rainek	N9AAI	Sep 29
James A. Fischer	W9LPF	Sep 30



73 de KB9LCQ - Brian

¡¡ Happy Birthday !!

Credits

Thanks to our news contributors this month:

KB9BWP	WB9LNU	N9QIT
KC9CI	KF9PU	WA9SFH
KB9LCQ		KF9XL

We also would like to thank Al Drobak, Alfred Huwald, and Myron Hendricks for taking care of the refreshments at our meetings.

Thanks to Rita Doneis, Armin Doneis, III, and Kristi Potochnik for their help in the proofreading dept.

Our thanks go to John Merkl and Barbara Brewer for making sure that the 'Chatter gets printed, stamped, and mailed.

Also our thanks goes to Don and Jaquie for handling the Raffle at the meetings.

Thank you very much!

Editor's Notes

Hi, again,

Jerry Thompson - WA9SFH (Santa's Fat Helper) seems to be progressing pretty well. He surprised everyone by showing up at our July meeting. He passed his swallowing test this past Tues. - (*Aug. 17*) and can drink clear liquids and hopefully will be off the feeding tube soon. Our best to you Jerry.

Join us in our Friday night (10 and 2 meter) nets. (No experience is needed -- only a Ham license.

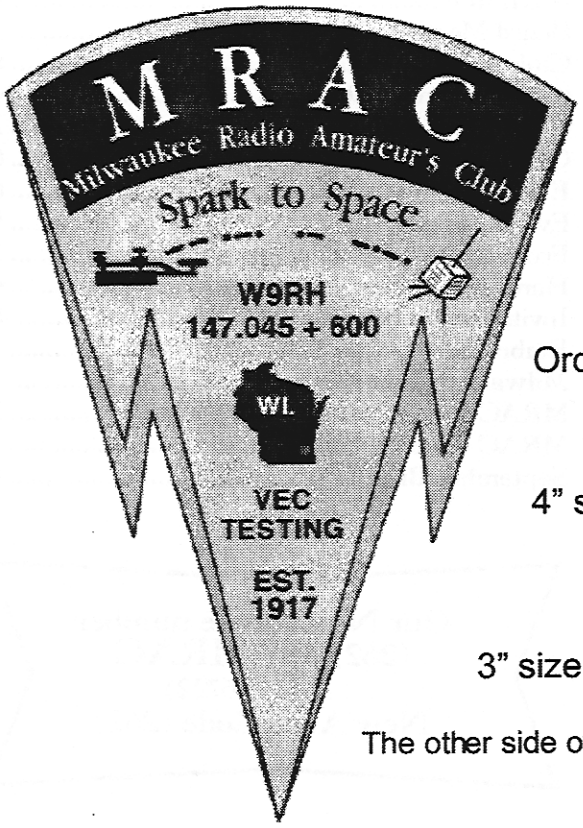
Some of us are still meeting for breakfast at Maxim's at about 182nd St. and Capitol Dr. for breakfast on Saturday morning at about 8:00 AM. We'd like to see you there.

Well, I guess that's about it for now.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

73,

Pancho - KA9OFA



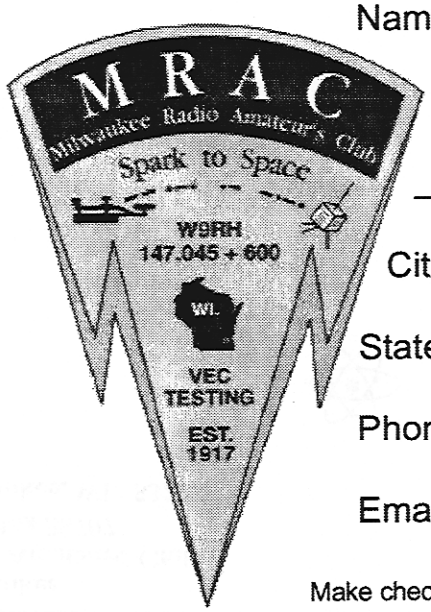
IT'S FINALLY HERE...
YEARS IN THE MAKING...
THE OFFICIAL MRAC LOGO
FIRST APPEARING AS AN EMBROIDERED FULL COLOR* PATCH

Order some for your jacket, hat, pet, whatever

4" size qty _____@$5.00 ea = _____

3" size qty _____@$4.00 ea = _____

The other side of this form should have your address label. If not:



Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Make checks payable to Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club Inc (or MRAC) and send to
P.O. Box 25727
Milwaukee Wi 53225

*Patch is multi-color (blue background, gold lightning bolts, black text, upper – black background with white text). For color picture see Dave's web site http://www.execpc.com/~wb9bwp/page10.html. Due to printing costs, pictures here are gray scale. Patches are shown actual size.
This is a pre-order. Allow 6-8 weeks or so for delivery.

MRAC

This Month's meeting:

Thu. - Aug. 26, 1999

7:30 PM

Program: "DXing on 100 watts" by Rick - WB9GYT (Great Young Talent)

Location: Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
(Use the south entrance)
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please! Don't call the Church for information!!!

Board meeting: Mon. -Aug. 23,1999

Next meeting;
September 30, 1999

HamateurChatter
Deadline is
September 1, '99

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Our New Phone number
(262) 797-MRAC
(797-6722)
New Area Code (262)

FROM SPARK TO SPACE

August ,1999 Vol. 07 No. 08

HAMATEUR CHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Club since 1917

Phone 797-MRAC -- Use our Club Repeater - W9RH 147.045+ offset

Milwaukee
Radio Amateurs' Club
P.O. Box 25707
Milwaukee, WI 53225